

One-Stop Shopping to Curb Unwanted Sales Calls

Tired of calls from strangers trying to sell you something? Bothered by shady characters offering deals that are too good to be true? Take back control of your telephone!

Sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry. It's easy and it's free! Call 888-382-1222, TTY 866-290-4326 from the phone number you want to register. Unfortunately, registering by phone may not work if you live in a residential complex that uses a PBX phone system. But you can also register online at www.donotcall.gov. If you don't have a computer, use someone else's.

To register online, you'll need Internet access and a working email address. The Do Not Call system will send a response to that address with a link that must be clicked on within 72 hours to complete the registration.

Some callers aren't covered. Nonprofit groups, charities, political organizations, and survey companies don't have to use the national Do Not Call list. But when charities use professional fundraisers to call, they must honor your request not to call again.

Even if your number is on the registry, companies can still call if you purchased something from them or made a payment within the previous 18 months, you asked about a product or service, or submitted an application within the past three months. Companies can also call if you have a "personal relationship" as a friend, relative, or acquaintance or you gave them written permission to call. But you always have the right to tell them not to call again. And if you don't want to register for the list, you can tell companies not to call you again on a case-by-case basis.

Registration lasts for five years. No renewal notice will be sent, so you should write the registration and renewal dates on the reverse side of this page as a reminder (or, if you told individual companies or charities not to call again, use the form to note their names and the dates of your requests). You can confirm that a number is on the registry and learn its registration date through the toll-free number or the Web site. If your number changes or is disconnected, you'll need to re-register. You can also take the phone number off the Do Not Call registry any time via the toll-free number or Web site.